

Remarks

Claims 1-21 have been cancelled and Claims 22-30 are submitted herewith which are deemed to moot the drawing objections indicated, obviate the informalities noted and clearly distinguish the invention over the patent to Hattori.

As a matter of clarification, reference numerals 64 and 66 denote the driven shafts which are drivingly connected to the differential gear, reference numeral 18 denotes the drive shaft and reference numeral 26 denotes a guide section which is affixed to the drive shaft. guide section 26 is not a separate member but instead a portion of the drive shaft which accounts for the prior recitations of the conduit being connected to the drive shaft in lieu of a separate guide section. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is invited to the last two lines on page 4 of the specification which indicates that guide section 26 is connected permanently to the hollow shaft 18 by annular laser weld at 28.

Each of the newly submitted claims provides for the conduit intercommunicating passageways in the differential gear case and the guide portion of the drive shaft. Clearly, the passageway shown in housing 2 of Hattori does not constitute a passageway in a differential gear case but the housing of the entire transmission comparable to housing numeral 80 of Applicant's structure which encloses differential gear case 56.

The newly submitted claims further distinguish over Hattori in providing for the conduit being disposed adjacent an inner race of a bearing as recited in claim 24, at least two of such conduits circumferentially spaced relative to the axis of the drive shaft as recited in claim 27, the differential gear comprising a Torsen differential gear as recited in claim 29 and the conduit being radially displaced relative to the axis of the drive shaft as recited in claim 30.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the newly submitted claims be allowed and that further the application be passed to issue.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed,

asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 14-1437, under Order No. 8369.007.US0000.

Respectfully submitted,

/Peter N Lalos/

Peter N. Lalos

Registration No. 19,789

PNL/acb

Attorney Docket No.: 8369.007.US0000

NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG LLP

1300 Eye Street, NW

1000 West Tower

Washington, D.C. 20005

Telephone: (202) 659-0100

Facsimile: (202) 659-0105

Date: January 28, 2009